Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3, 11, and 13 and add claims 21 - 28 as indicated herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An ophthalmic transdermal patch for treating diseases of the posterior segment of the eye comprising a drug-containing layer uniformly containing in a base matrix polyoxyethylene oleyl ether as a percutaneous absorption enhancer and a drug to be delivered to at least a part of the posterior segment of the eye including the lens, the vitreous body, the choroid and the retina.

2. (Original) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the drug is an anti-cataract agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anti-viral agent, an immunosuppressant, a calcium channel antagonist, a glutamate receptor antagonist or a cysteine protease inhibitor.

3. (Currently amended) The transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the drug containing layer further contains ~~percutaneous absorption enhancer is polyoxyethylene oleyl ether and/or~~ isopropyl myristate as a percutaneous absorption enhancer.

4. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the content of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W%.

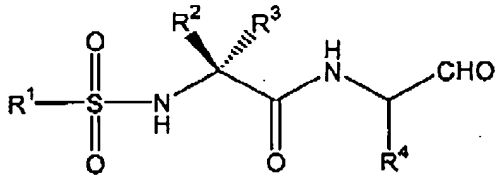
5. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 3 wherein the content of isopropyl myristate in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W%.

6. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the base matrix comprises acrylic adhesive, silicone elastomer or styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer.

7. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 3 wherein the ratio of the content by weight concentration (W/W%) of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether to isopropyl myristate is in the range of 1:0.1 - 1:5 in the drug-containing layer.

8. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the drug is a steroidal drug.

9. (Previously presented) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 1 wherein the drug is a compound of the formula (1)



(1)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 denotes C1 - C4 alkyl, or C6 - C10 aryl which may be substituted, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different from each other and denote hydrogen or C1 - C4 alkyl, or are combined to form a C3 - C7 ring, and R^4 denotes aryl, cycloalkyl, or a lower alkyl which may be substituted with an aromatic heterocyclic ring.

10. (Original) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 9 wherein the drug is N-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-L-valyl-L-leucinal or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Currently amended) A method for treating a disease of at least a part of the posterior segment of the eye including the lens, the vitreous body, the choroid and the retina in an animal including a human, wherein the method comprises applying to the animal a transdermal patch comprising a drug-containing layer uniformly containing in a base matrix an effective amount of a drug to be delivered to the part and polyoxyethylene oleyl ether as a percutaneous absorption enhancer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the drug is an anti-cataract agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anti-viral agent, an immunosuppressant, a calcium channel antagonist, a glutamate receptor antagonist or a cysteine protease inhibitor.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the drug-containing layer further contains isopropyl myristate as a percutaneous absorption enhancer ~~is polyoxyethylene oleyl ether and/or isopropyl myristate~~.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the content of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W%.

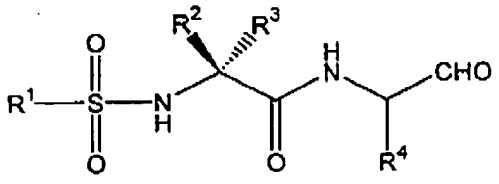
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the content of isopropyl myristate in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W%.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the base matrix comprises acrylic adhesive, silicone elastomer or styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the ratio of the content by weight concentration (W/W%) of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether to isopropyl myristate is in the range of 1:0.1 - 1:5 in the drug-containing layer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the drug is a steroidal drug.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the drug is a compound of the formula (1)

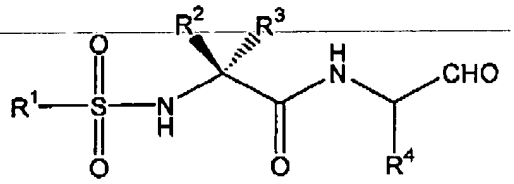


(1)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 denotes C1 - C4 alkyl, or C6 - C10 aryl which may be substituted, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different from each other and denote hydrogen or C1 - C4 alkyl, or are combined to form a C3 - C7 ring, and R^4 denotes aryl, cycloalkyl, or a lower alkyl which may be substituted with an aromatic heterocyclic ring.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the drug is N-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-L-valyl-L-leucinal or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) An ophthalmic transdermal patch for treating diseases of the posterior segment of the eye comprising a drug-containing layer uniformly containing in a base matrix polyoxyethylene oleyl ether as a percutaneous absorption enhancer and a drug to be delivered to at least a part of the posterior segment of the eye including the lens, the vitreous body, the choroid and the retina, wherein the drug is a steroidal drug or a compound of the formula (1)



(1)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 denotes C1 - C4 alkyl, or C6 - C10 aryl which may be substituted, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different from each other and denote hydrogen or C1 - C4 alkyl, or are combined to form a C3 - C7 ring, and R^4 denotes aryl, cycloalkyl, or a lower alkyl which may be substituted with an aromatic heterocyclic ring.

22. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 21 wherein the drug-containing layer further contains isopropyl myristate as a percutaneous absorption enhancer.

23. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 21 wherein the content of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W %.

24. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 22 wherein the content of isopropyl myristate in the drug-containing layer is 5 - 30 W/W %.

25. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 21 wherein the base matrix comprises acrylic adhesive, silicone elastomer or styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymer.

26. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 22 wherein the ratio of the content by weight contcentration (W/W %) of polyoxyethylene oleyl ether to isopropyl myristate is in the range of 1:0.1 - 1:5.

27. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 21 wherein the drug is N-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-L-valyl-L-leucinal or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (New) The ophthalmic transdermal patch of claim 21 wherein the steroidal drug is prednisolone.